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## Media Release

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### **Statewide Senior Abuse Training to be held April 1 – 2, 2009**

Media invited to attend April 1st opening session, which begins at 8:00 a.m.

On Wednesday, April 1, a two-day statewide training entitled “Recognizing and responding to abuse of the elderly and the disabled” will be held for Delaware law enforcement and first responders. The training, offered by Attorney General Biden’s Senior Abuse Initiative and hosted by the New Castle County Police Department, is designed to educate state and local police officers, first responders, and other law enforcement personnel to identify the signs of senior abuse and ensure that those cases are directed to appropriate personnel for investigation and prosecution.

**Event:** *Recognizing and Responding to Abuse of the Elderly and the Disabled*  
**Location:** New Castle County Police Department, 3601 North Dupont Highway, New Castle  
**Date/time:** Wednesday, April 1, 8:00 a.m.

Topics covered throughout the training include:

- Recognizing the signs of senior abuse and understanding senior abuse dynamics
- Exploring the correlation between senior abuse and domestic violence
- Reviewing civil versus criminal statutes and remedies
- Response protocols (recognition, documentation, referral, investigation)
- Investigative strategies

Senior abuse consists of a range of crimes, including verbal and physical abuse, neglect, and sexual and financial exploitation. Studies have shown that for every case of senior abuse that is reported, five cases go unreported. In September, 2008, Attorney General Biden established the Senior Protection Initiative to expand efforts to prosecute abusers and to encourage victims to come forward. He also created a statewide Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), under the direction of experienced senior abuse prosecutor, Deputy Attorney General Marsha White, to coordinate the services of state agencies, law enforcement, and advocates to identify, prosecute, and prevent these crimes.

Instructors at this week’s training include Special Investigator Lester Johnson, Special Investigator at the Attorney General’s Office, and Pamela Williams, Social Services Administrator for Delaware’s Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.

Media interested in attending Wednesday’s session should contact the Attorney General’s Public Information Office at (302) 577-8949. Learn more about the Senior Protection Initiative by visiting: <http://www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov/family/elderlyviolence/elderlyabuseandexpl.shtml>

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